



THE BULLSEYE BULLETIN

Wisconsin Hunter Education Newsletter

#102 September 2006

40 YEARS HUNTER EDUCATION CONFERENCE MEMORIES--

From Tim Lawhern, Hunter Education Administrator

The 40 Year Hunter Education Conference is now a wonderful memory. For those of you who did not attend, you missed an excellent opportunity to learn more about the program, listen to stimulating speakers, make new acquaintances and compare notes with other instructors.

In this issue of the newsletter, I am sharing my letter to all the attendees, and highlights of the conference. My letter to attendees follows--

Welcome to this statewide conference and the celebration of 40 years of the Hunter Education Program! In 1965 plans were already being implemented towards developing our agencies official Hunter Education Program; known in those days as "Hunter Safety." Safety was the name of the game back then and the first course in 1967 was only 6 hours long. We have come a long way since that time. Some of you here at this conference were in that first group teaching back in 1967. We are especially pleased that you are here with us at this celebration. No one knows better than the first volunteer instructors how much has changed. Change is a part of what this conference is all about. Every attendee can help the future of our hunter education program by actively engaging in our planning sessions (strategic planning) for the future.

We have some wonderful speakers and presenters attending this conference. Jim Posewitz, Orion Institute, is a noted historian on Hunting and particularly in the hunting heritage in North America. Dr. James Earl Kennamer, NWTF, has been heavily involved in the Governor's Symposia on the Future of North America's Hunting Heritage and well versed on the efforts that are currently underway to secure that future. Fabian Romero (USFWS) and Keith Snyder (PA Game Commission) were both on the program review team that evaluated our hunter education program. Rick Arnold (USAF Sgt. Retired) is a nationally known expert on wilderness survival. William (Bill) Jennings (Indiana Hunter Education Association) has a wealth of information on how a volunteer instructor association can help a state program. Representative Scott Gunderson (Chair, Assembly Natural Resources Committee) and Dr. Holsman (UWSP) will speak to us about the future of hunting. Finally, Father Theodore Vitali will offer a rousing presentation on religion and hunting.

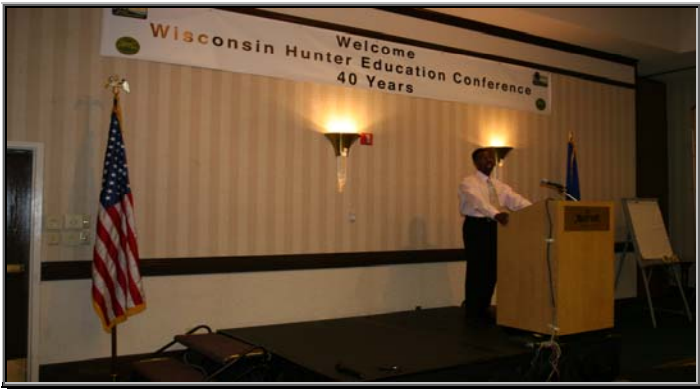
WISCONSIN HUNTER EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

It has been 15 years since the last Statewide Hunter Education Conference. That's too long between conferences. We hope to plan another one in the near future and possibly one every year. This is a time of celebration and rededication to our cause. Take time to introduce yourself to the other conference attendees. Share your stories of teaching hunter education and how you have made positive impacts on others. Tell your best hunting story. I'm sure I'll try to tell you mine!

If you have questions or special needs please see any of the program staff attending this conference. They will be happy to assist you. You can easily recognize them as they will each have a special ribbon attached to their name tags. We are here to serve you at this conference.

Finally, thanks for sharing the most valuable thing you have to offer with us this weekend; your time! We appreciate your every effort and count every minute with you as golden. Enjoy yourselves with each other and have a great conference!

PICTORIAL LOOK BACK AT THE 40 YEAR WISCONSIN HUNTER EDUCATION INSTRUCTOR CONFERENCE



Warden Gervis Myles stirring rendition of the Star Spangled Banner opened the conference.



Instructors listen as Jim Posewitz, Orion Institute, a noted historian on Hunting and particularly the hunting heritage in North America reminded us of 'Where We Came From.'



Department of Natural Resources Secretary Scott Hassett welcomed all with opening remarks.



Chief Warden Randy Stark set the stage with his presentation of 'Where We are Today' in Hunter Education.



Dr. James Kenamer PH.D, National Wild Turkey Federation, has been heavily involved with the Governor's Symposia on the Future of North American's Hunting Heritage and well versed on the efforts currently under way to secure that future.



William (Bill) Jennings (Indiana Hunter Education Association) shared a wealth of information on how volunteer instructor associations can help a state program.

RECOGNITIONS AND AWARDS PRESENTED AT THE HUNTER EDUCATION CONFERENCE



Keith Snyder (PA Game Commission) was on the program review team that evaluated our hunter education program discussed where Hunter Education was at the time of the review and where we are now.



Warden Doug Bilgo was selected as 2005 Outstanding Professional of the Year in Hunter Education.



Father Theodore Vitali offered a rousing presentation on religion and hunting as speaker at the banquet Saturday evening.



Hunter Education Instructor Nicholas Meyer is presented with 2005 Outstanding Hunter Education Instructor of the Year by Hunter Education Administrator Tim Lawhern with Warden Robert Lee.



A view of the instructors attending the conference. In front are Advanced Rifle Marksmanship Instructors Presenters Dr. Le Roy Momper and Greg Dobratz.

SUBMITTED BY NORTHERN—EAST REGION—
RSW Jeff Dauterman

Sir,
I recently attended a Hunter safety Course in Hatley, WI this July and was very impressed with the Instructors. The main Instructors were Mr. Wally Meuret and Mr. Dick Thayer along with the two Junior Instructors Mr. Mike Mitchell and Mr. Tom Mitchell. It was quite obvious that they cared about what they were teaching and about the kids. I'm 56 yrs. old and have been hunting since I was 16 and after taking this course along with my 12 yr. old grandson I learned some things that I didn't know or had become lax about.

The DNR should be very proud to Instructors of their caliber who take such an interest in the subject and the students. I was amazed at the way they conducted their classes insisting that the students know and demonstrate safe gun handling, the cardinal rules of gun safety, compass, tree stand safety and the types of firearms, safeties, magazines and calibers. They

explained and demonstrated to the students what they were instructing and then required the students to perform those tasks on the field day at range. They also answered any questions and took their time explaining the subject matter again if a student was having problems with that topic. Excellent job!!!

Sincerely
David Matthews

Hints for you—from Evelyn's Desk

Happy Fall—

Deer hunting season is fast approaching. What a fantastic idea for each instructor group could hold one more regular HE class or Internet Field Day before the season opens. I realize the level of procrastination is high, but think of the rewards. These new hunters will have a chance to experience the great sport of hunting and enjoy the great outdoors.

You are doing a fantastic job. We appreciate each and every one of you and all you accomplish. Thank you for giving of your most precious possession—your time.

Feel free to call or email me with suggestions or questions. My phone number is 608-266-2143. My email address is evelyn.wilson@dnr.state.wi.us.

The gadgeteer has draped the American Sportsman with an infinity of contraptions, all offered as aids to self reliance, hardihood, woodcraft, or marksmanship but too often serving as substitutes for them . . . The American Sportsman doesn't understand what is happening to him. . . It has not dawned on him that outdoor recreations are essentially primitive, atavistic; that their value is a contrast value; that excessive mechanization destroys contrasts by moving the factory to the woods or to the marsh.

Aldo Leopold Circa 1946



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